(e) what corrective steps have been taken to stop overcharging and do justice to the consumer?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (e) The required details to the extent available will be collected and laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

**Report of the committee on Rifampicin**

128. SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 61 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th February, 1989 and state :

(a) whether the high powered committee set up for reviewing various aspects of anti-TB and anti-Leprosy drug Rifampicin has since submitted its report; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) The representations received for increase in the present sale price of Rs. 2500 per kg. in respect of Rifampicin bulk drug are under consideration but a final decision has not yet been taken.

**Fixation of Drug Prices**

129. SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are rulings to the effect that prices of drugs once fixed are valid till they are revised;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a ruling that the prices fixed cannot be revised from retrospective effect ;

(d) whether it is a fact that this Ministry has given hearings to settle the prices first fixed under DPCO, 1979 and another hearing to resettle the same prices after sometime; and

(e) if so, what are the details of such instances and appropriate authority who is overstepping the rulings and provisions of DPCO, 1979?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) The prices of scheduled drugs are fixed revised from time to time under the provisions of DPCO, 1987.

(d) and (e) Since the prices of certain drugs involved in the Supreme Court case had not been revised since 1980, a decision was taken to give hearing to the companies concerned on their price revision application for prices after 31st December, 1983.

**Recommendations of Kelkar Committee**

130. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Undstarred Question 3006 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th March, 1989 and state:

(a) what are the details of recommendations which are still under consideration;

(b) by when his Ministry will finalise the decision on all the recommendations;

(c) whether it is a fact that Kelkar Committee made certain recommendations apart from the terms of reference of the Committee; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a), (c) and (d) All the recommen-

dations of the Kelkar Committee are contained in its Supplementary Report, copies of which are already available in the Parliament Library. The Govt. has accepted the following recommendations so far:

(i) Transfer of 4 drugs from category 1 to category 2;

(ii) Exclusion of 15 drugs from the purview of price control under DPCO, 1987;

(iii) The constitution of an inter-Ministerial committee for consideration of requests for exclusion of drugs from price control where the production of bulk drugs occurs from basic stage by process developed through indigenous Research and Development.

(b) As early as possible.

**Price fixation of Dexamethasone based formulations**

131. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3005 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th December, 1988 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the stay from fixation of prices of Dexamethasone based formulations was granted only in favour of Merind;

(b) if so, when was this stay granted;

(c) whether it is a fact that Supreme Court vacated the stay;

(d) if so, when;

(e) whether his Ministry fixed the prices of formulations based on this drug after vacation of stay;

(f) if so, when and the prices fixed for various packs;

(g) whether it is a fact that apart from Marind there are other producers of formulations based on this drug;

(h) if so, the names of the leading producers, brand name and price fixed for each pack of each producer;

(i) when was the price fixed and at what price each is being sold on 31st March, 1989

(j) whether his Ministry worked out the overcharing of each company on these medicines; and

(k) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The stay was granted on 25-8-1981.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court delivered their judgement on 1st May, 1987.

(e) and (f) The details of prices fixed on 17-4-1989 for non-leader packs produced by M/s. Merind are given below Ceiling prices in respect of leader packs are being notified shortly.

| Sl.No | Name of the formulation | Pack size | Price fixed by Court |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Decadron Topical Cream . . . . . | 3.5 gm. | 2.61 |
| 2 | Decadron Eye/Ear Solution . . . . . | 2·5 ml vial | 3.79 |